

(WASHINGTON) --- Congressman Allen West (FL-22) released this statement today on Flag Day and the 236th birthday of the United States Army:

"On this day in 1777, the Continental Congress in Philadelphia adopted the Stars and Stripes as the national flag. Today, the American flag represents a symbol of pride and hope, not just here in America but on all shores where people yearn for freedom and democracy.

Today, we recognize the American flag I saluted as a soldier in the United States Army for 22 years. Now I have the honor to serve in the House of Representatives, which flies the American flag over the Chamber when our nation is debating the important issues of our day.

Today is also memorable for another reason. On this very same day in 1775, two years before the Stars and Stripes was adopted, the Continental Army was established, later becoming the United States Army. During the American Revolutionary War, the Army was created to provide professional soldiers to defeat the British. While I may have traded in my Army uniform for a suit and tie, I will always be proud of the time I wore the uniform of a soldier.

Today, I want to recognize the men and women around the world who wear the uniform of the United States Army, many of them in harm's way, with the American flag on their sleeve. The American flag is not just the symbol of the United States, but a constant reminder of why these men and women are fighting to protect us.

The American flag is a national symbol to be honored and revered, not burned."

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